

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 16, all the claims pending in the application, stand rejected. Claims 1, 2 and 6-8 are amended. Claim 16 is cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102

Claims 1-11 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Pomerleau (US 5,091,780). As to claims 1-11, this rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons. The rejection is moot with regard to claim 16.

Pomerleau

Pomerleau discloses a camera and sensor base security system married to a neural network processing system. Successive camera images are differenced from one another with a different image being provided at a substantially lower resolution than the original obtained from the camera. This low resolution difference image is then supplied to neural network, which has previously been taught by the user with respect to which of a number of training situations constitute an alarm condition.

The neural network supplies a weighting factor to each pixel of the difference image depending of previous user responses to training situations. These weightings are modified or changed by the user depending on the current content of particular pixels in a training scene and hence the particular regions or sectors of the Image currently observed by a camera.

Pomerleau also allows for a variable set of response actions to be taken depending on whether an alarm condition has been detected. A single response option is trained into the behaviour of the system (see column 6, lines 32 through 50).

The Invention

- Claim 1, the only independent claim in the present application, has been amended to reference the assignment of both independent monitor parameters and independent control parameters to each of the sectors. This feature is not disclosed in Pomerleau. Specifically, the claim has now been amended to state steps c) and d) as follows:

- c) assigning at least one independent control parameter to each of the sectors, and*
- d) signaling different and independent outputs for the sectors depending on the independent control parameter or parameters assigned to each sector."*

Thus, all of the claims of the present application now clearly recite the assignment of at least one independent monitoring parameter to each sector, in addition to the assignment of at least one independent control parameter to each sector. The control parameter or parameters assigned to each specific sector then determines the independent output signalled.

This approach is not disclosed nor discussed in Pomerleau. Although Pomerleau references the ability to have different system outputs, a single system output is trained into the system. Pomerleau does not disclose the explicit assignment of a particular control parameter which in turn controls the output response of the system when a monitoring parameter determine an alarm condition has occurred.

The Examiner's attention is also drawn to the Applicants' teachings in the specification, which provides a further detailed description regarding the operation and interaction of both the monitoring parameters and control parameters assigned to a sector.

In particular:

- Page 4 lines 15 through page 5 line 8 describes the use of a number of different monitoring parameters which can be assigned.
- Page 5 lines 11 through page 6 line 5 discusses a number of different control parameters which can be assigned to a sector where these control parameters determine the output action taken.
- Page 7 lines 11 through 19 provides an explicit example of how monitoring and control parameters are used in a specific case.

The individual and explicit assignment of sectors directly by a user gives a significant degree of flexibility and fine operational control compared with the approach taken by Pomerleau. Users may forego the need to run through multiple training scenarios to quickly and accurately define sectors they believe are of interest to their own operations. This approach leads to the elimination of the learning phase that is required by the Pomerleau system. This, in turn, speeds up the installation and implementation of a monitoring system. Furthermore, a monitoring system provided in accordance with the present application can have a reasonably simple user interface facility, thereby eliminating the need to guide training users through multiple training scenarios prior to the monitoring system becoming operational. In addition, the present invention does not require neural network technology, allowing relatively low capacity and cost processing hardware to be used. Finally, the independent assignment of monitoring parameters and the independent assignment of control parameters allows a monitoring system be provided with a significant degree of functional flexibility. One

or more control parameters may be assigned giving a wide number in range of combinations and permutations of operational behaviours which can be programmed or assigned directly and rapidly by a user.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the claims now clearly define over the prior art and all of the claims should be considered allowable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

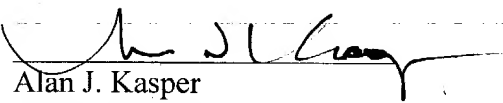
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER


Alan J. Kasper
Registration No. 25,426

Date: August 17, 2004